

### CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (currently amended) A method for providing warranties that warrant at least one or more  
~~facts~~ fact associated with a digitally-signed electronic message, said method comprising the steps  
of:

assigning a warranty cap to an entity that issues digital certificates;

tracking a warranty volume for the entity;

receiving a request for a warranty from a subscriber to whom the entity issued a digital  
certificate, the request for [a] the warranty specifying a warranted amount and claim period;

evaluating the request for a the warranty to ensure that the warranted amount will not  
cause the entity's warranty volume to exceed the entity's warranty cap;

transmitting a message that confirms issuance of the requested warranty, the message  
being digitally signed by a component maintained by the entity, the warranty comprising a  
contract between the entity and the subscriber, a relying party being a third-party beneficiary to  
the contract;

[receiving a validation request from] the relying party sending a validation request to a  
relying participant, said relying participant being in communication with said entity, the  
validation request requesting validation of [a] the digital certificate ~~for the~~ of said component ~~that~~  
~~signed the message confirming issuance of the requested warranty; and~~

said relying participant transmitting a validation response to the relying party.